

REMARKS

Responsive to the Election/Restriction Requirement dated October 17, 2007 the Examiner has required an election of a single invention for prosecution on the merits, under 35 U.S.C. § 121. It is Applicants' understanding that this election is being made to aid the Examiner in conducting a search and examination of the claimed subject matter, and is not to be construed as limiting the scope of Applicants' claims. It is also Applicants' understanding that if the elected subject matter is found to be allowable over the prior art, the search and examination will be expanded to cover other species, until it includes the full scope of the generic claims included in the elected group.

Applicants hereby elect claims 17-45 in Group I.

Applicants also agree to withdraw the claims of Group II without prejudice to reserve the right to file them in a subsequently-filed patent application.

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PATENT

CONCLUSION

The present application is now believed to be in condition for examination on the merits. Favorable examination leading to early allowance of this application is earnestly solicited.

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